(c) In the case of commercial banks all outstandings under 8% interest on refinance category as on 22 September, 1990, banks are to be charged interest at the rate of 9.5% unless the banks decide to charge the original rate of interest loans and advise National Bank accordingly.

NON-SCHEMATIC LENDING

(a) The rate of interest charged by the National Bank for various purposes with effect from 1.3.1988 has also been indicated in the *Annexure-II*. Regarding short-term (Seasonal Agricultural Operations) limits, the final rate of interest charged to the Central Cooperative Banks is decided to the following basis:

% of average borrowings from National Bank to average age out-standings at Central Co-operative Bank level during the year	Final rate of interest aver-charged on the refinance
80% and above	5.00
60% and above but below 80%	4.00
Below 60%	3.00

(b) During the year 1990-91 the final rate of interest charged to Central Cooperative Banks on the limits sanctioned to them was as under:

No. of Central Cooperative Banks	Final rate of interest charged
19	3%
4	4%
2	5%

(c) Regarding medium term (conversion), the rate of interest is same as charged to the Short-term (SAO) loans converted.

[English]

Rupee Trade Agreement With USSR

5157. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Soviet dislike for rouble trade delaying power, steel projects" appearing in the 'Economic Times' dated August 5, 1991;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government regarding continuance of the non-convertible rupee trade agreement with USSR under the present Long Term Agreement which expires in 1995;

(c) whether the Government propose to put the exporters to USSR on caution or advice to divert or diversify to other markets; and

(d) the details of various items under broad heads, alongwith the quantities thereof exported to USSR during the year 1990 and 1991, till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The rupee trade arrangement has been found to be beneficial. Given the bilateral clearing arrangement in place between India and USSR, the level of Indian exports to USSR is determined by the amount of Soviet exports to India and repayments due on USSR credits. Prospects for trade are reviewed periodically in bilateral meetings.

(d) A statement is attached.

STATEMENT

S.No.	Group of Commodities	1990 (Provisional) Jan. -May	1991 (Provisional)
		(Rs./ Crores)	
1.	Agricultural Products	2084	430
2.	Minerals and Ores	67	2
3.	Chemicals & Allied Products	1039	459
4.	Leather & Leather Goods	301	156
5.	Textiles	752	307
6.	Engineering Goods	1049	352
7.	Others	113	28
	Total	5405	1729

(Source: DGCTDS, Calcutta)

[Translation]

Widening of National Highway No. 29

5158. SHRI VISHWANATH SHASTRI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any provision to widen the National Highway No. 29 passing through Varanasi to Gorakhpur via Gazipur;

(b) if so, when the work to widen the said highway was started;

(c) the reasons for delay in completion of the work; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir. National Highway No. 29 has been already